

IN THE CLAIMS

Complete listing of the claims:

1. (Currently amended) An image forming apparatus that receives an electronic mail, ~~so as to create and creates~~ a print product ~~according to contents of~~ based on image data included in said electronic mail, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a receiving section to receive said electronic mail including said image data and finishing information representing a post processing to be applied to said print product created on the basis of said image data, wherein said print product includes a single paper sheet or a plurality of paper sheets, on each of which an image is already formed through a whole image forming process based on said image data, and said post processing is defined as such a physical treatment that is to be applied to said print product after said whole image forming process is completed, so as to physically change an appearance and/or a binding mode of said print product;

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and said finishing information, separately from said electronic mail;

a finishing information judging section to determine whether or not said post processing, represented by said finishing information, is provided in said image forming apparatus itself as an applicable post processing;

a determining section to determine whether or not said finishing information should be changed, when said finishing information judging section determines that said post processing is not provided in said image forming apparatus itself; and

a finish setting establishing section to establish a set of finish setting representing post processing to be applied to said print product based on a result made by said determining section.

2. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1,

wherein said acquiring section includes an electronic mail analyzing section to analyze said electronic mail so as to acquire said image data and said finishing information, separately from said electronic mail.

3. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a post processing content storing section to store a content of post processing provided in advance in said image forming apparatus itself as applicable post processing.
4. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1,
wherein, when said finishing information judging section determines that said post processing is provided in said image forming apparatus itself, said finish setting establishing section establishes said set of finish setting, according to said finishing information directly acquired from said electronic mail.
5. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 2,
wherein said electronic mail analyzing section includes a finishing information rule storing section to store a rule with respect to a description of said finishing information, and analyzes said electronic mail data based on a content stored in said finishing information rule storing section to acquire said finishing information, when analyzing said electronic mail.
6. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 5,
wherein said finishing information rule storing section stores a tag description and said finishing information while correlating them with each other.
7. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a notifying section to notify a sender of said electronic mail, when said finishing information judging section determines that said post processing is not provided in said image forming apparatus itself.
8. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 7,
wherein said notifying section notifies said sender of a fact that said post processing, represented by said finishing information, is not provided in said image forming apparatus itself

as said applicable post processing, and of another applicable post processing corresponding thereto.

9. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a notifying section to notify a sender of said electronic mail of content of post processing applicable in said image forming apparatus itself.

10. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1,
wherein said applicable post processing differs depending on a sender of said electronic mail.

11. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
an individual-sender finishing content storing section to store identifying information for an individual-sender and a finishing content, which is allowed for said individual-sender, while correlating them with each other.

12. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a sender rejecting section to stop an image-forming operation based on said image data included in said electronic mail, when an address of a sender coincides with a rejecting address established in advance.

13. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a sender restricting section to allow an image-forming operation based on said image data included in said electronic mail, only when an address of a sender coincides with an allowed address established in advance.

14. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
an image-forming section to conduct an image-forming operation based on said image data.

15. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a finishing section to apply said post processing to said print product; and
wherein said finishing section performs finish processing based on said set of finish setting.

16. (Withdrawn) An image forming apparatus that receives an electronic mail, so as to create a print product according to contents of said electronic mail, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a receiving section to receive said electronic mail including image data and finishing information representing a post processing to be applied to said print product created on the basis of said image data;

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and said finishing information, separately from said electronic mail;

a finishing information judging section to determine whether or not said post processing, represented by said finishing information, is provided in said image forming apparatus itself as an applicable post processing; and

a process selecting section to select whether a processing operation should be proceeded or stopped, when said finishing information judging section determines that said post processing is not provided in said image forming apparatus itself.

17. (Withdrawn) An image forming apparatus that receives an electronic mail, so as to create a print product according to contents of said electronic mail, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a receiving section to receive said electronic mail including image data and finishing information representing a post processing to be applied to said print product created on the basis of said image data;

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and said finishing information, separately from said electronic mail;

a finishing information judging section to determine whether or not said post processing, represented by said finishing information, is provided in said image forming apparatus itself as an applicable post processing; and

a process stopping section to stop finish processing, when said finishing information judging section determines that said post processing is not provided in said image forming apparatus itself.

18. (Withdrawn) An image forming apparatus that receives an electronic mail, so as to create a print product according to contents of said electronic mail, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a receiving section to receive said electronic mail including image data and finishing information representing a post processing to be applied to said print product created on the basis of said image data;

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and said finishing information, separately from said electronic mail;

a finishing information judging section to determine whether or not said post processing, represented by said finishing information, is provided in said image forming apparatus itself as an applicable post processing; and

a finish setting establishing section to establish a set of finish setting to be applied to said print product;

wherein, when said finishing information judging section determines that said post processing is not provided in said image forming apparatus itself, said finish setting establishing section changes said finishing information, so that said set of finish setting does not include said post processing.

19. (Withdrawn) A system for communicating an electronic mail, comprising:

an electronic mail creating apparatus to create an electronic mail including image data and finishing information; and

an image forming apparatus that receives said electronic mail transmitted from said electronic mail creating apparatus, so as to create a print product according to contents of said electronic mail;

wherein said image forming apparatus includes:

a receiving section to receive said electronic mail including said image data and said finishing information representing a post processing to be applied to said print product created on the basis of said image data;

a finishing information judging section to determine whether or not said post processing, represented by said finishing information, is provided in said image forming apparatus itself as an applicable post processing; and

wherein said image forming apparatus notify said electronic mail creating apparatus, when said finishing information judging section determines that said post processing is not provided in said image forming apparatus itself.

20. (Withdrawn) A system for communicating an electronic mail, comprising:

an electronic mail creating apparatus to create an electronic mail including image data and finishing information; and

an image forming apparatus that receives said electronic mail transmitted from said electronic mail creating apparatus, so as to create a print product according to contents of said electronic mail;

wherein said image forming apparatus includes:

a receiving section to receive said electronic mail including said image data and said finishing information representing a post processing to be applied to said print product created on the basis of said image data; and

wherein said image forming apparatus notify said electronic mail creating apparatus of information of post processing applicable in said image forming apparatus itself, in response to an inquiry received from said electronic mail creating apparatus.

21. (Withdrawn) A system for communicating an electronic mail, comprising:

an electronic mail creating apparatus that acquires image data and an address of an image forming apparatus when creating said electronic mail, to create electronic mail including said image data, said address of said image forming apparatus and finishing information; and
an image forming apparatus described in claim 1.

22. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for creating an electronic mail, comprising:

an acquiring section to acquire image data and an address of an image forming apparatus, serving as a receiver of said electronic mail; and

an electronic mail creating section to create electronic mail including said image data, said address of said image forming apparatus and finishing information described in a tag.

23. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 22,

wherein said finishing information represent at least one of post processing including a designation of color or monochrome, a designation of enlargement or reduction and a designation of a punching operation.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 22,

wherein said finishing information are described in a main description of said electronic mail.

25. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 22,

wherein said finishing information are described in a header of said electronic mail.

26. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:

an image data acquiring section to acquire said image data;

an address acquiring section to acquire said address of said image forming apparatus, serving as said receiver of said electronic mail;

a finishing information acquiring section to acquire said finishing information; and

an electronic mail data generating section to generate said electronic mail data including said address of said image forming apparatus, said finishing information and said image data.

27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,

wherein said electronic mail data generating section generates said electronic mail data, so that said electronic mail data include said address at a header, said finishing information provided as a main description and said image data attached to said main description.

28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,

wherein said image data acquiring section is provided with an image data storing section in which said image data are stored.

29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,

wherein said image data acquiring section is provided with a scanner for reading an image to generate said image data.

30. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,

wherein said receiver acquiring section is provided with a receiver inputting section for setting a receiver by an inputting operation of a sending operator.

31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,

wherein said receiver acquiring section is provided with a receiver storing section for storing a receiver.

32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,

wherein said finishing information acquiring section is provided with a finishing information inputting section for setting said finishing information by an inputting operation of a sending operator.

33. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,
wherein said finishing information acquiring section can acquire only such finishing information that are described by a rule established in advance.
34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 33,
wherein said rule relates to a description by a tag.
35. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,
wherein said finishing information acquiring section is provided with a finishing content storing section for storing finishing content data being acquirable.
36. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising:
a model finishing content storing section to store a finishing content being processible as data of every model for a finishing section.
37. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising:
a receiver model data storing section that stores model data of a finishing section provided in said receiver while correlating it to receiver identifying information.
38. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,
wherein said apparatus is so constituted that said apparatus acquires receiver identifying information to identify a receiver, and can select a finishing content being usable for a finishing section provided in said receiver.
39. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26,
wherein said apparatus is so constituted that said apparatus acquires receiver identifying information, and acquires receiver model data from said receiver model data storing section, based on said receiver identifying information, and acquires a finishing content being selectable from model finishing content storing section, based on said model data.

40. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising:

an inquiring section to inquire a finishing content being processible for a receiver from said receiver.

41. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 40,

wherein, when said inquiring section obtains said finishing content being processible for said receiver, said finishing information acquiring section can acquire only such finishing information that are limited within said finishing content.

42. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising:

a communicating section to communicate said electronic mail by coupling to a network.